

Craig Jelinck

My name is Douglas Wade, I am the 4th generation owner of Wade's Dairy located in Bridgeport. We have 49 employees and we do our best to pay a living wage. No one at my company is paid less than the proposed minimum wage of \$10.10.

SB 32

I am strongly in favor of this legislation that will raise the minimum wage. I am saddened that it doesn't provide for a CPI adjustment.

I strongly believe that an increase in the minimum wage will help to stimulate the economy in CT as the working poor spend most all of their money in their local communities.

I also believe that we as a civilized society need to uphold basic human rights. I don't pretend to be an expert on this subject, however I know there is a source document that 240 sovereign nations have signed and ratified since it was written on the world stage in 1948 following the horrors that occurred during World War II. Our country was a leader in crafting the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS that now serves as the basis for the authority of the United Nations. We saw this document in play yesterday with the announcement of human rights violations occurring in North Korea.

There are several articles in this document that I would like you to reflect upon.

Article 23 states; Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Article 24 states; Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25 states; Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

Could you live on \$8.70 per hour? Do you consider this a living wage that provides an adequate standard of living?

A government representative of the people should reflect and protect the values that we hold as human beings. The minimum wage is a humanitarian law created 76 years ago that set standards with the intention of ensuring that everyone who worked full time would be compensated at a rate that would provide the means to a life without poverty. There is no exact formula to determine a proper minimum hourly wage, but I can say with certainty that \$8.70 doesn't cut it.

I urge your support of this bill and I also urge you to bring up future legislation that will automatically adjust the minimum wage for inflation on an annual basis. The federal minimum wage has been increased 23 times over the past 76 years and the people's right to minimum standards shouldn't be treated like a yoyo.

Index the minimum wage and stop the political theatrics.

Thank you